

**Stow Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 31, 2022**

A meeting of the Stow Conservation Commission was held on May 31, 2022 at 7:30 in the evening remotely VIA Zoom Videoconferencing in accordance with the Governors' Executive Order on Remote Meeting participation.

There were present: Serena Furman, Chair
Matt Styckiewicz, Vice Chair
Liza Mattison
Holly Clack
Ingeborg Hegemann Clark

Absent: Jeff Saunders
Doug Morse

Also Present: Kathy Sferra, Conservation Director
Jacquie Goring, Conservation Assistant
Tom Porcher, Associate Member

Serena Furman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Minutes

Holly Clack moved to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022 as amended. Liza Mattison seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Liza Mattison moved to approve the minutes of May 17, 2022 as amended. Matt Styckiewicz seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ingeborg Hegemann Clark arrived at 7:40 PM.

Staff and Commission Member Updates

- Kathy Sferra and Jacquie Goring worked with Trail Stewards Jim Wheeler and Dave Schroeder constructing the trail on the Open Space at Joanne Drive. Sferra has been lining up projects and plans for "Trail Work Tuesdays" and invited Commission members to join. Sferra will be sending a letter out to the neighborhood about the new trail entrance. Sferra confirmed that there is room for one or two cars to park.
- The data logger has been installed at Hallock Point. GZA provided photos and a GPS location.
- Sferra confirmed the shrubs were planted in the wetland replication area for 287-289 West Acton Road and one of the owners will likely be requesting a Certificate of Compliance (COC) soon. The Commission discussed how long the shrubs should be in place to be considered established and recommended that the owner to hold off on requesting a COC until the fall.

Conservation Commission Minutes

5-31-22

Approved 6-21-22

- The Town hired Places Associates to design the walking trail on the Kane Land on Gleasondale Road. Places flagged an area in front of 2 Marlboro Road as wetlands and the property owner was concerned because he was told there are no wetlands in the area. Sferra confirmed she will be getting a copy of the data sheet. Sferra and Hegemann Clark had reviewed the area and determined it was likely flood plain based on the vegetation and lack of wetland soils. There was agreement that the line delineated by Places is for planning purposes and has not been confirmed by the Commission.

Notice of Intent – Kendall Homes – Joanne Drive Lots 6 & 7 – Serena Furman read the hearing notice. Paul Kirchner of Stamski & McNary was present and reviewed plans for lots 6 and 7 Joanne Drive. Kirchner stated that the first five lots have been built or are currently under construction. Lots 6 and 7 have wetlands located behind them and a 100' buffer that extends onto the lots. Kirchner described an area of Isolated Land Subject to Flooding and flood plain and the associated Stow Wetland Bylaw 100' buffers. The proposed work includes construction of a house and a portion of the driveway on lot 7 within the bylaw 100' buffer to flood plain and tree clearing and grading within the 100' buffer to wetlands on both lots 6 and 7. Kirchner stated that both lots were originally designed to be outside buffer zones, but the grading plans were revisited to allow for more yard space. Kirchner reviewed the grades on lots 6 and 7 noting that the elevation on lot 6 is significantly higher than lot 7. As originally designed, the grade was to be brought down for the septic system on lot 6 which would leave a ridge along the siltation barrier line. Kirchner reviewed the proposed contours, limit of clearing, and erosion control lines. Kirchner clarified that the proposed grading is needed to tie the grades between lots 6 and 7 more naturally.

Sferra confirmed that DEP issued a file number with no comments. Kirchner clarified the grading plan for lot 7. Cuts and fills will balance on lot 7 to bring the lot to grade with lot 6 and make the grade more natural from the septic system to the stonewall without a ridge. Holly Clack and Matt Styckiewicz visited the site. Clack reviewed photos noting that the grades are steep, and the grading plan is easier to understand when onsite. Kirchner confirmed that the stone wall will be removed in the area where it is within the limit of work shown on the plan and it is not proposed to be replaced. Styckiewicz added that the erosion controls could not be installed closer to the stone wall because grading is proposed beyond the wall. Styckiewicz added that there would be a steep ridge with potential stormwater and erosion issues if the grading was not done beyond the wall. The Commission asked if the grading cut could be less if the septic design for lot 6 was modified from a gravity system to a pump system. Kirchner stated that if a pump system was used, the grade would be higher and require less of a cut, but the grading would still be needed between the two lots. Sferra noted that the site has well-draining soils and strawbales and silt fence will be sufficient for erosion control.

Matt Styckiewicz moved to close the hearing. Ingeborg Hegemann Clark seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Commission reviewed a draft decision and recommended minor edits. *Holly Clack moved to issue the Order of Conditions as amended. Matt Styckiewicz seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Joanne Drive Open Space Naming – The Commission reviewed various name options for the Joanne Drive Open Space and agreed to officially name the open space Assabet Overlook Conservation Area.

Discussion & Vote – Draft Complaint Policy – Sferra noted the recent increase in complaints as well as the number of anonymous reports, the resolution of which cannot be communicated to the complainant. The Commission reviewed a draft complaint policy and had no edits. *Holly Clack moved to adopt the draft Complaint Policy as written. Matt Styckiewicz seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Reorganization – Chair/Vice Chair, Community Preservation Committee Representative, Green Advisory Committee Representative – The Commission discussed reorganization. Liza Mattison expressed interest in being the Community Preservation Committee representative and Ingeborg Hegemann Clark expressed interest in the Green Advisory Committee. Matt Styckiewicz agreed to remain Vice Chair. The Commission agreed to vote on reorganization at their next meeting.

At 8:40 PM, Liza Mattison moved to adjourn, Matt Styckiewicz seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Goring, Conservation Assistant

Materials Used at Meeting

Meeting Packet

Joanne Drive Lots 6 & 7 site visit photos

Complaint Policy draft